

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

September 21, 2023

4:15 p.m. – Room 214

Minutes

1. Welcome/Introductions

Committee Members: Todd Pettit, Kim Dinkheller, Erica Maynard, Shelley Arns, Rachael Petty, Dennis Williams, Emily Pool, Jess Thorsen, Cheryl Vogler
QPS Administrators and Teachers: Jody Steinke, and Stephanie Stephens
Members of the Public: Dr. Todd Porter and Deb Husar.

2. Committee Discussion Items

- **Summer School Report Review**

Kim Dinkheller, Director of Teaching and Learning, reviewed the Summer Academy 2023 Report.

K-5 students are enrolled in summer school based on below average reading writing and math achievement. Students are notified in February that they qualify for summer school. Additional literacy and math instruction were provided to help students become more successful/prepared for the 2023-2024 school year. K-5 summer school is funded by Title I. There were 2 sessions, one from 7:30-9:30 am and one from 9:30-11:30 am. The goal was small group instruction, each classroom had 2 core teachers and a Student Support Family Liaison supported all grades. Summer academy, which met at Rooney Elementary, served 289 students, including five from non-public schools, and offered literacy and math instruction. Average attendance was 93%, with 98 students having perfect attendance over the 18 days, and students gained an average of 1.3 reading levels. Service League members came to Summer Academy twice to read and interact with students. Altrusa organized a school carnival for students.

6-8 students were invited to summer academy based on below average/failing quarter grades in core classes and low school year attendance. Students were notified in February that they were required to attend summer school. Summer Academy provided additional instruction in Literacy, Math, and STEM to help students be more successful/prepared for the 2023-2024 school year. Funding is provided by Title I and 21st CCLC. Reading and math intensive instruction was provided for students who needed additional help and STEM instruction as well as a content recovery lab. Content recovery students who completed their coursework were able to exit summer academy when courses were completed. Kim reviewed student growth for both intensive and content recovery students.

The focus for students in grades 9-12 summer academy was credit recovery, credit catch-up and new credits. QHS provides the 21st Community Learning Center (CCLC), which is credit recovery and catchup. They also provide Traditional Summer School which is for new credits and Drivers Education. CCLC students recovered 392 credits and traditional students earned or recovered 145 credits.

- **Teacher Retention Report Review**

Kim reviewed the teacher retention data. The rate of retention was higher than last year. Ten of the 13 schools and district-wide staff had a certified staff retention rate above 90%. Two others were at 89%, with the lowest retention rate for the past year at 82%. QPS tracks its retention rate year to year. The Illinois School Report Card also tracks the teacher retention rate based on a three-year metric, not year-to-year, and doesn't factor in teachers who may move buildings but stay within the district

- **QAVTC – Request for Graphics I and Digital Media -Computer Requirement Credit**

Member Arns asked for a motion to approve a request from QHS and Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center to allow digital media and graphic design to count toward the computer credit required for graduation.

A motion was made by member Williams and seconded by member Pool.

Coursework in the two classes mirrors what's offered in applications of computers, which already counts toward the graduation credit.

3. **Recommend to the Board of Education for Action**

- Approve a request from QHS and Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center to allow Digital Media and Graphic Design to count toward the computer credit required for graduation.

4. **Consider any other matter relating to the District Improvement Process**

- None
 - Topics Raised by Committee Members

Member Pool asked how the pilot was going. She asked if teachers were given the opportunity to share their opinions anonymously. Erica Maynard, Elementary Education Director PK-5 shared that she has scheduled check-ins with pilot teachers for each publisher where they can share their successes and challenges with the products. She has also provided a form for pilot teachers to complete anonymously. She has calls scheduled with the company reps to share the teacher's feedback. She noted Savvas has a new literacy program coming out soon that they will share with Erica and teachers. Erica is collecting comparison data.

5. **Questions and Comments from the Public**

- Stephanie Stephens, QPS teacher, shared her experiences with the pilot materials.

Member Arns asked for a motion to adjourn at 5:07 pm. A motion was made by member Petty and seconded by member Pool.

Next Meeting November 30, 2023